

STANFORD UNIVERSITY
STANFORD, CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

March 24, 1958

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Josh:


We have had excellent success using dehydrated silica gel as a method of preserving stocks of Neurospora mutants of all sorts. It is quicker, cheaper, and apparently just as effective as lyophyll, and stocks put away in '54 and '55 are still viable. I think I shall write up a short note describing this new application, and am now trying to track down the history of the method.

I first heard of the method in 1953 from Sol Spiegelman, who was using it for yeast. He writes that he recalls hearing of the method first from you, and that he found it very useful for yeast, but treacherous with bacteria.

Is there a literature on the subject? Is it your own invention, or perhaps a widely known bit of unpublished lore?

Things are active here, with Charley, Cliff, and Pat pretty well settled. We hope to have an opportunity to hear about your Australian trip, among other things.

Best wishes and regards to Esther.

Sincerely,

David Perkins

DDP:ps

94